Australian Government
Department of Sustainability, Environment,
Water, Population and Communities

Measuring Sustainability

Australian Community Indicators Network
Video Seminar - 16 September 2011

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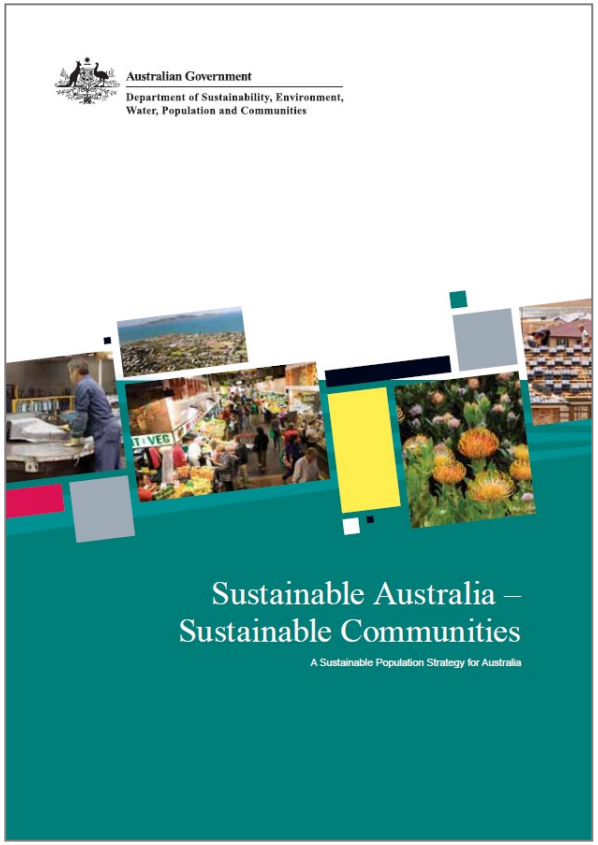
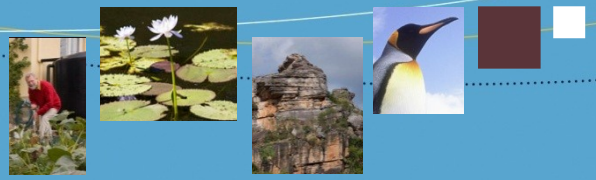
Rock art (C.Zwick)

Sustainable Australia: Sustainable Communities

- Strategy to ensure future population change is compatible with the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of Australia
- Sustainable Population Measures:
  - Suburban Jobs
  - Sustainable Regional Development
  - Measuring sustainability


Australian Government
Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
Sustainable Australia – Sustainable Communities
A Sustainable Population Strategy for Australia

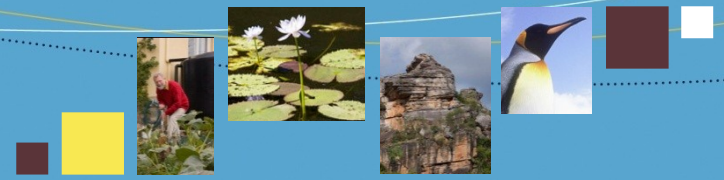


Measuring Sustainability - *overview*

- **Objective:**

  To deliver information on social, environmental and economic aspects of wellbeing that will support decision making for more sustainable outcomes.

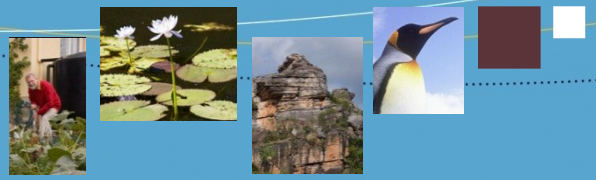
- **Key deliverables:**
  - Sustainability Indicators for Australia
    - 10-20 headline indicators addressing economic, social and environmental issues relevant to communities.
  - Products / tools
    - Online Portal – Directory of Sustainability Measurement
    - 'Sustainable Australia' Report
  - Sustainability Impact Statements
    - To be introduced as part of Cabinet process
- Looking to build on, learn from and add value to efforts at the local, national and international scale.



Sustainability Indicators for Australia – *possible themes*

- Sustainable Australia: Sustainable Communities.
  - A nation of sustainable communities, which have the right mix of services, job and education opportunities, affordable housing, amenity and natural environment, that make them places where people want to live, work and build a future.
  - Maintaining and enhancing the social, economic and environmental capital that underpin community wellbeing for current and future generations.

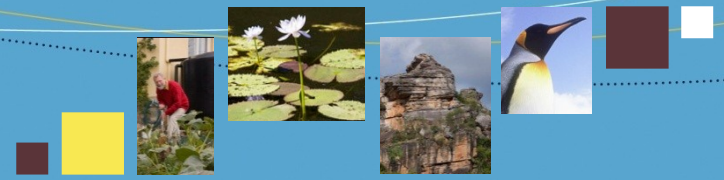
Liveable Communities	**Environmental Sustainability**	**Economic Prosperity**
Housing Affordability	Ecosystem Health	Workforce Participation
Traffic Congestion & Transport	Air Quality	Innovation Capacity
The Built Environment	Water Consumption and Efficiency	Economic Efficiency
Access to Services	Water for the Environment	Household Wealth
Social Inclusion	Waste Disposal	Household Income
Physical and mental health	Food Security	Education and Training
Culture and identity	Climate Change	
Security		



Sustainability indicators for Australia

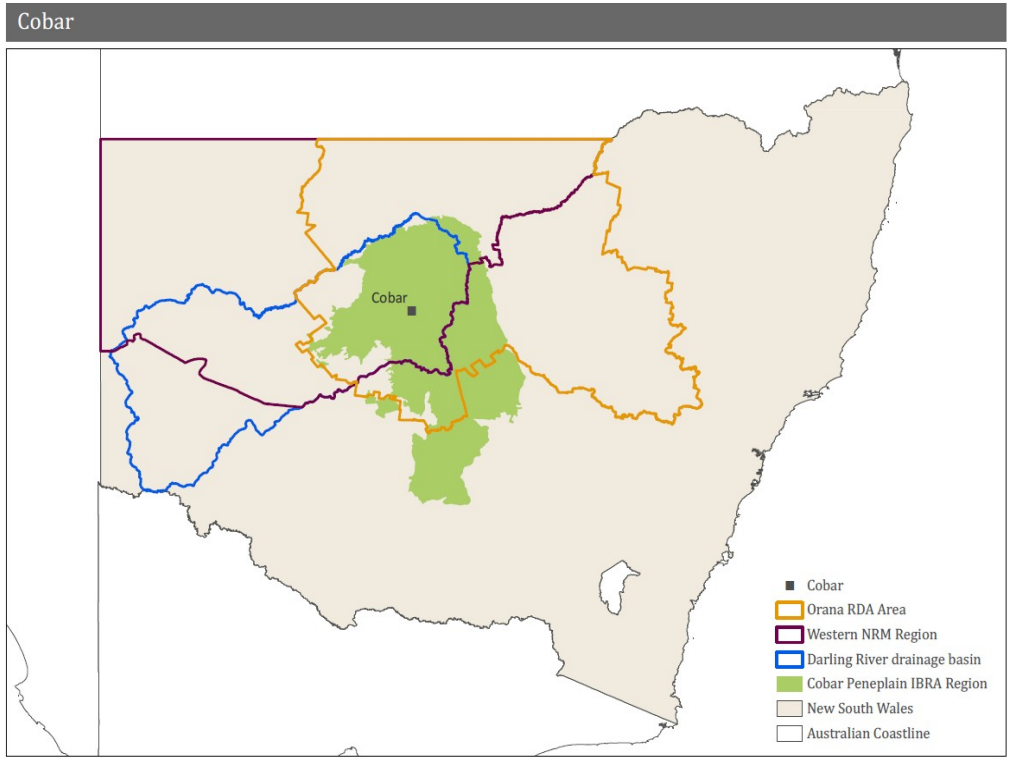
Key considerations:

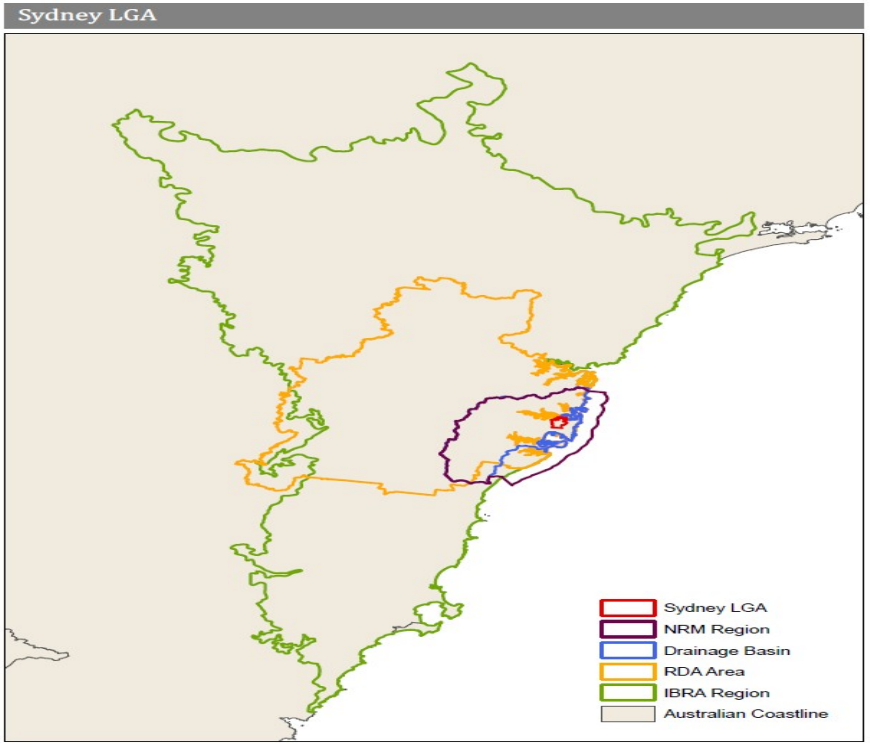
- **Relevance** – can inform decisions and responses by government and communities to enhance overall wellbeing
- **Scalable** – can be represented at a scale that is meaningful for policy and management purposes and which makes sense to communities
- **Objective** – transparent and does not require interpretation or translation. Trends in the indicator clearly represent an improvement or deterioration in relation to a component of wellbeing (i.e. are outcome focused)
- **Measurable and reliable** –quantifiable and statistically robust. Measurement of the indicator is repeatable (and will remain meaningful over time)
- **Data availability** – preferable that data be available, indicators for priority issues may be included where data is accessible in the near term.

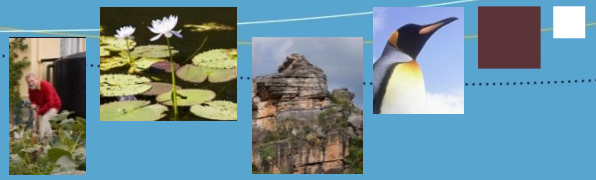


Sustainability Indicators – *regions*

- A range of potential approaches to regionalisation.
- Online portal as a tool for delivering place-based data

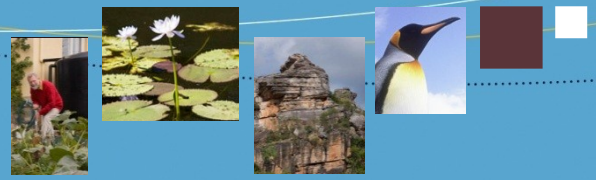






Where to from here?

- Consultation – stakeholders, experts, states.
- Identification of key issues and preferred indicators – later this year.
- Delivery of indicator products from 2012



Contacts / further information

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